Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing navigation information in a computer application, the method comprising:

establishing, at a client system, a global context that can communicate with a plurality of resources, each resource residing in an associated local context;

communicating, on the client system, state information from one or more local contexts to the global context;

maintaining, at the client system, global navigation information for the plurality of resources using a single navigation interface based on the communicated state information, wherein the plurality of resources are separate and independent resources that include both browser and non-browser applications; and

presenting, at the client system, the global navigation information as an ordered list of the resources representative of an order in which the resources were accessed using the single navigation interface.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the communication of state information occurs in response to a change in state in one or more of the local contexts.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 in which the change in state in a local context comprises a change in a title associated with a resource or a change in an address associated with the resource, or both.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 in which the change in state in a local context is triggered by input from a user of the computer application.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the user 's triggering input comprises one or more of clicking a cursor in a window associated with a resource, clicking on a link in a window associated with a resource, clicking on a Back/Forward navigation button, selecting an address from a displayed history list, or typing an address in an address field.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 in which the change in state in a local context is triggered by a computer process transparently to a computer user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 in which the transparent triggering comprises a title change notification from a host computer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the global navigation information comprises state information for global-context Back/Forward buttons displayed in a graphical user interface associated with the computer application.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the global navigation information comprises state information for a global-context history list presented to a user of the computer application.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving navigation input from a user of the computer application; and

changing a focus to move among the resources based the received navigation input and the global navigation information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 in which changing the focus comprises activating a window associated with a resource.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which maintenance of the global navigation information comprises selectively modifying the global navigation information depending on a manner in which a user interacts with the computer application.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 in which the global navigation information is not modified if the manner in which the user interacts with the computer application comprises one or more of clicking a cursor in a window associated with a resource, clicking on a link in a window associated with a resource, clicking on a Back/Forward navigation button, selecting an address from a displayed history list, or typing an address in an address field.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which maintenance of the global navigation information comprises pruning a navigation tree.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which pruning the navigation tree comprises: determining that a user of the computer application is accessing a new address; and deleting forward button state information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising changing focus from a current window to a previously accessed window based on the global navigation information.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which, if a window associated with the previously accessed address has been closed, spawning a new instance of that window.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which changing focus from a current window to a previously accessed window comprises using local-context navigation information maintained by a resource when navigating within that resource 's local context.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 in which the resource maintaining local-context navigation information comprises a browser application.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which a user can specify whether closing a window associated with a resource results in deletion of the window from the global navigation information.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which maintenance of the global navigation information comprises deleting navigation information corresponding to a closed window.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which one or more of the resources comprises a browser application.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which one or more of the resources comprises a non-browser application.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the computer application comprises online service client software.

25. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the global navigation information comprises a navigation path to move among resources.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the communicated state information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator address.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the communicated state information comprises a non-internet network address.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a history list in a computer application, the method comprising:

receiving state information from a plurality of independent and separate resources that include both browser and non-browser applications, each resource residing in an associated local context;

based on the received state information, maintaining a history of resources accessed by a user of the computer application; and

presenting a global-context history list representative of an order in which the resources were accessed using a single navigation interface.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising enabling a user of the computer application to return to any, of the listed resources by selecting a desired resource from the global-context history list.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which a resource communicates state information in response to a change in state in the resource's local context.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 in which the change in state in the resource's local context comprises a change in an address associated with that resource.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 in which the change in state in the resource's local context comprises a change in a title associated with that resource.

33. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which the global-context history list presented to the user selectively omits an identity of one or more of the accessed resources.

34. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which maintenance of the history of accessed resources comprises selectively modifying the global-context history list depending on a manner in which a user interacts with the computer application.

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35. (Original) The method of claim 34 in which the global-context history list is not modified if the manner in which the user interacts with the computer application comprises one or more of clicking a cursor in a window associated with a resource, clicking on a link in a window associated with a resource, clicking on a Back/Forward navigation button, selecting an address from a displayed history list, or typing an address in an address field.

36. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which presentation of the global-context history list comprises displaying a drop-down history list to a user.

37. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which maintenance of the history comprises adding a new entry to a top of a list if the resource had not been accessed previously.

38. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which maintenance of the history comprises rearranging entries in a list if the resource had been accessed previously.

39. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which the history of resources corresponds to a navigation path among resources.

40. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which the state information received from a resource comprises a Uniform Resource Locator address.

41. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which the state information received from a resource comprises a non-internet network address.

42. (Previously Presented) A software application environment for a computer system, comprising:

a plurality of resources each having an associated local context, wherein the plurality of resources are separate and independent resources that include both browser and non-browser applications;

an application capable of communicating with each of the plurality of resources, the application maintaining a global-context navigation information based on state information received from one or more of the resources; and

a navigation mechanism that includes a single navigation interface and enables a user of the application to move among the resources based on the global-context navigation information, wherein the global-context navigation information is presented as an ordered list of the resources representative of an order in which the resources were accessed using the single navigation interface.

43. (Original) The software application environment of claim 42 further comprising graphical controls that enable a user of an application to move among resources based on the global-context navigation information.

44. (Previously Presented) Software, stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer system to perform the following operation:

establish a global context that can communicate with a plurality of resources, each resource residing in an associated local context, wherein the plurality of resources are separate and independent resources that include both browser and non-browser applications;

communicate state information from one or more of the local contexts to the global context;

maintain global navigation or history information, or both, based on the communicated state information using a single navigation interface; and

present the global navigation information or the history information as an ordered list of the resources representative of an order in which the resources were accessed using the single navigation interface.

45. (Original) The software of claim 44 further comprising instructions to enable a user of an application to move among resources based on the global navigation or history information.

46. (Original) The software of claim 45 further comprising instructions to display graphical controls with which the user interacts to move among resources.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein browser applications include web browser applications and non-browser applications include word processing applications.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein browser applications include web browser applications and non-browser applications include word processing applications.

49. (Previously Presented) The software application environment of claim 42 wherein browser applications include web browser applications and non-browser applications include word processing applications.

50. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 44 wherein browser applications include web browser applications and non-browser applications include word processing applications.